



Welcomes 2011-2012 Mentors

Name: _____

Congratulations!

Your selection as a mentor within the WNY Young Writers' Studio is an important accomplishment. Mentors possess the following qualities:

- They are capable writers who invest a good amount of time and energy in learning about what great writing is, how to produce it, and how to help others do the same.
- They are valuable contributors to the progress of our organization. Every mentor has had unique experiences and developed powerful skills that enable them to give something meaningful to our community.
- They are role models. Mentors consistently demonstrate what cooperative, collaborative, and collegial learning and work look like.
- They are problem solvers and innovators. We need our mentors to see things that we do not, to share ideas that we may not have, and to develop solutions to the problems that they encounter. If you were chosen as a mentor, this means that the adults in our organization have faith in your ability to do this.

Why Mentor?

There are several important advantages to becoming a mentor:

- Mentors may earn up to 60 hours of service credit for their participation in our program. These hours may be used to fulfill graduation requirements, Honor Society expectations, or other service-learning demands.
- Mentors gain valuable experience as pre-service teachers of writing.
- Mentors grapple with essential questions and moments of ***cognitive dissonance***. What does that mean? It means that true learning is often uncomfortable. Mentors learn to tolerate this discomfort, as it is essential to their growth.
- Mentors engage in reflective practice and research. They document their progress and archive it in ways that will enhance their entry into college or the work force.
- Mentors learn how to use social networking tools for learning purposes. They are coached to establish digital footprints that represent them well, and they strive to serve as model digital citizens.
- Mentors are invited to present with teachers at local, national, and international conferences whenever we are invited.
- Mentors attend their Studio sessions free of charge.

Expectations

- **Mentors are expected to complete a summer training session**, where we will be learning more about what it means to research, reflect, and revise. We will also learn how to come to know the writers we will be working with and how to provide them with high quality feedback.
- **Mentors must arrive to all scheduled sessions 1 hour prior to the start of the session (at 8am).** This will provide us time to plan for the day prior to the arrival of the teachers who also come to Studio to learn.
- **Mentors must attend all scheduled sessions in order to maintain their sponsorship.** We do not meet often, and when you miss a session, this impedes your learning and work. Please plan your 2011-2012 schedule around these dates: September 24th, November 19th, January 21st, March 10th, May 19th
- **Mentors must join and invest 15 minutes of their time bi-weekly in one of the following social networks:**
___Twitter ___The Studio Ning ___Our Studio Facebook Group
- **Your time within these social networks must be spent:**
 - Sharing a resource, idea, strategy, or reflection that might be of use to others.
 - Providing high quality feedback to another writer or teacher.
 - Welcoming new members and building connections between them, so they may learn from one another.
 - Sharing what you are learning from others who are there.
- **Mentors must publish one article within a Studio newsletter during the course of the year.** This article must be a reflective piece that reveals how their thinking or their writing has changed as a result of their learning. Newsletter deadlines fall on the first of each of these months:
___October ___December___February___April___June
- **Mentors must create a digital portfolio that serves as an archive of their work and their learning.** Support will be provided for this, and writers may use any digital tool of their choice to accomplish this. They may also choose to protect their portfolio if they choose.

The Digital Portfolio

Your portfolio must include the following elements:

- **ABOUT PAGE**

This page will provide details about who you are, what brought you to Studio, what you've learned there, and how you contribute to our program through your mentorship.

- **GOALS**

Your portfolio should reveal what you intend to LEARN and DO as a writer within our program AND as a mentor. What do you hope to accomplish for yourself? How do you hope to help the elementary writers you will work with? What do you need to learn in order to be successful? How will you learn it?

- **THREE REFLECTIONS**

Summer/Winter/Spring

These pieces will reveal what you are grappling with and discovering about yourself as a writer and a mentor. Each reflection should attend to the goals that you've set for yourself. Your writer's notebook will provide you plenty of ideas for this part of your work

- **EVIDENCE OF YOUR WORK AS A WRITER AND A MENTOR**

Photos, journal entries, videos, podcasts, blog entries, links to your participation within social networks, reflections and feedback from fellows in our program, links to published pieces, anything else that might serve as a powerful artifact

- **EVIDENCE OF HOW YOU HAVE USED YOUR WORDS TO BE OF SERVICE TO OTHERS WITHIN AND BEYOND OUR PROGRAM.**

- **EXIT LETTER**

Upon completion of your mentorship (which may last several years or more), you will complete and post an exit letter which will detail what has been learned and accomplished as well as what your future plans are.

Plan to House Your Digital Portfolio Online Using One of These Tools or Another of Your Choice: Blog
Wiki LiveBinder

STAY CONNECTED:

Angela Stockman stockmanangela@gmail.com

Studio Blog <http://wnyyws.org>

Facebook Group <http://tinyurl.com/4x6q9lo>

Ning <http://wnyywss.ning.com>

MENTORSHIP ACTION PLANNING TOOL:

OUTCOME	WHAT ARE ALL OF THE THINGS THAT NEED TO BE DONE?	WHEN WILL YOU DO IT?	WHAT HELP OR RESOURCES WILL YOU NEED?
Social Network Time			
Publish Newsletter Article			
Digital Portfolio			
Use Words to Make a Difference			